



STATE SENATOR **Wayne Kuipers**

30TH SENATE DISTRICT E-MAIL UPDATE



Senate Approves Bill to Stop Job-killing Rules

The Michigan Senate recently approved a bill to prevent mandatory ergonomics standards from taking effect that would severely harm the viability of Michigan job providers.

Senate Bill 93 would prohibit the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration from establishing burdensome mandatory ergonomic rules or standards. Voluntary guidelines would remain permissible but could be no more stringent than federal guidelines.

Despite statements to the contrary, the Granholm administration is on the verge of a mandatory ergonomics rule that will have a significant negative impact on Michigan job providers.

The cost of the state standards to job providers is expected to reach \$500 million or more. California is currently the only state in the nation to have mandatory ergonomics rules.

Voluntary standards by businesses have produced positive results. Michigan's repetitive stress injury rate has decreased by nearly 40 percent since 1998 without mandated ergonomic standards, a rate better than the nationwide drop of 32 percent during the same time.

SB 93 now heads to the Michigan House of Representatives for consideration.

Senate Republicans Reintroduce Vital DEQ Reform

To help reform state government, reduce costs, and streamline the permitting process, Senate Republicans reintroduced legislation to turn wetland permitting over to the federal government.

Senate Bill 187 would transfer authority from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for issuing permits granting landowners permission to undertake improvements on their land, if designated as wetland.

Michigan is one of only two states that currently perform this function. The legislation would repeal the DEQ's authority, which would automatically return the process back to the federal government.

This bill will allow property and business owners to manage their properties as long as federal guidelines are met and will create a consistent standard of regulation.

According to an article in *The Detroit News*, if the reform is adopted Michigan could save an estimated \$2 million a year.